

HONORING MACE MCINTOSH

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2009*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mace McIntosh upon his retirement as the Sonora Chief of Police. Chief McIntosh will officially retire on December 30, 2008 and will be honored on January 3 at a retirement dinner.

Mr. McIntosh was born and raised in Tehama County, California to John and Donnalee McIntosh. He was raised on his family's cattle ranch. In 1978, he was hired by Red Bluff Police Department in Tehama County. He worked patrol, investigations and all traffic related issues. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1992 and promoted to Commander in 1995. He served as the interim Chief for the Red Bluff Police Department from September 2000 to October 2001. From there he served at the rank of Captain until his appointment as Chief of Police with the city of Sonora in June 2004.

The Sonora Police Department is a full-service, community policing organization that includes 25 sworn and non-sworn staff. They also have 5 reserve police officers, a 12 member senior volunteer program and 14 active explorers. Chief McIntosh has implemented a new program that has helped his team cover the city more efficiently. He developed the Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving program; the city is divided into two "Areas of Responsibility" with a Patrol Sergeant for each of the two areas. The Sergeants are responsible for any problems that might occur within their Area of Responsibility.

Outside of the police department, Chief McIntosh has always been involved with the community. He has been a member of the Elks Club of Red Bluff for over 30 years. He also served on the Plum Valley School District Board for 12 years and the Tehama County Board of Education for 14 years; he served as Board President for each organization twice. He is the Past President of Tehama County Peace Officers Association and the Tehama County Police Activities League. He was also a member of the Tehama County Mentoring Committee.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Chief Mace McIntosh upon his retirement from the Sonora Police Department. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Chief McIntosh many years of continued success.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KAY GRANGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2009*

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No.'s 7 and 10 I was absent from the House on official District business.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CONGRATULATING JOE MADDON FOR HIS ACHIEVEMENTS IN PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL AND FOR HIS SUPPORT IN HELPING RESTORE THE HAZLETON "CASTLE" AUDITORIUM

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2009*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Joe Maddon, from Hazleton, Pennsylvania, the manager of the Tampa Bay Rays baseball team and a leader of a citizen effort to restore the auditorium of the former Hazleton High School, now an elementary and middle school that has, for more than 80 years, been a landmark in the Hazleton area that is fondly referred to as "The Castle."

Born in Hazleton in 1954, Mr. Maddon graduated from "The Castle" where he was a star athlete before moving on to graduate from Lafayette College in 1976 where he played baseball and football.

Mr. Maddon then went on to distinguish himself in the world of professional baseball for more than three decades, first with the California/Anaheim Angels and, since 2006, with the Tampa Bay Rays, a team which he led to the 2008 World Series that was won by the Philadelphia Phillies.

After the 2008 season, Mr. Maddon was named the American League Manager of the Year.

During his remarkable career, Mr. Maddon has won accolades from Sports Illustrated, which described him as a "Renaissance man from down-to-earth roots." The New York Times described him as "one of baseball's more purely intelligent men in uniform." And the Boston Globe called Maddon "the genuine article . . . universally respected, intelligent, wordily, eloquent and well-read."

Mr. Maddon has been a leader in the Tampa Bay area in raising awareness to the plight faced by those who are homeless and has actively worked to feed and shelter the victims of homelessness.

Frequently praised as a man who has never forgotten his roots, Mr. Maddon has been committed to helping raise the funds necessary to renovate the auditorium of his former high school so that it can serve as a Community Arts Center.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Joe Maddon for his personal and charitable achievements and also for the positive attention he has brought to his hometown of Hazleton and all of northeastern Pennsylvania. Mr. Maddon's example is an inspiration for others to emulate especially our young people who can look to him as a true role model.

## RECOGNIZING ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST ATTACKS FROM GAZA

SPEECH OF

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 9, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I wish to express my strong support for House Resolu-

tion 34, recognizing Israel's universal and sovereign right to defend itself from acts of war and aggression, and reaffirming the United States' strong support for Israel in our mutual fight against terrorism.

The cause of the present crisis is clear. Hamas, a terrorist organization committed to the destruction of Israel, has continually violated the territorial integrity of the State of Israel, a member of the United Nations, by launching thousands of rocket attacks from Gaza for the purpose of terrorizing and killing the citizens of Israel.

Hamas has received substantial support in its campaign of terror from other rogue nations, most notably Iran, which has provided Hamas with the material and expertise to conduct their rocket attacks.

In responding to these attacks, Israel is exercising its sovereign right to self defense, a legitimate right recognized by the international community.

Unfortunately, rather than lay the blame for this crisis where it belongs, with Hamas and its leadership, too many of our international allies have instead criticized Israel.

Blaming Israel for this present situation is akin to blaming the victim of a crime for the actions of a criminal. These criticisms of a sovereign state exercising its legitimate right to self defense will only embolden Hamas and terrorists everywhere.

House Resolution 34 recognizes that it is Hamas that is responsible for this present crisis and expresses our nation's solidarity with our friends and allies in Israel during their time of great danger. It is for this reason that I wish to express my strong support for House Resolution 34.

## IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF DR. JIMMY CHEEK

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2009*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, along with my friend Congressman ADAM PUTNAM, it is a great honor for me to rise today to recognize the retirement of Dr. Jimmy Cheek from the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, IFAS. Since 1975, Dr. Cheek has been instrumental in agricultural education at the University of Florida, where he was a mentor of mine.

Jimmy Cheek's career with the University of Florida began as an assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education, and now, over 30 years later, he is retiring as a senior vice president for agriculture and natural resources. Through the course of his career, he served in a number of positions, but all of them were dedicated toward instilling an understanding of the importance of agriculture in his students. Dr. Cheek also received numerous awards and recognition not only for his dedication to teaching but also his vast knowledge of agriculture.

His leadership in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, CALS, as well as IFAS, helped expand the programs offered and the student enrollment, making CALS the fourth-largest college at UF. Dr. Cheek took an outstanding program and improved upon it even further as he oversaw the addition of new programs and research opportunities, and he has

been recognized for his efforts to this end. Some of the numerous awards bestowed upon him include the University of Florida Faculty Superior Accomplishment Award and the CALS Teacher of the Year. He has also been recognized by Who's Who in America, Who's Who in American Education, Who's Who Among American Teachers, and has received an honorary membership in Alpha Gamma Rho, of which I am a proud member.

Madam Speaker, there is no doubt in my mind that Dr. Cheek's legacy will be remembered for generations to come, not just by students at the University of Florida but also throughout the Nation where his work has been recognized. He dedicated his career to educating students not just about agriculture, but also character, and he will be fondly remembered by all who know him. Jimmy Cheek will be missed in the classrooms in Gainesville and around the State, but he leaves behind an institution that will continue to flourish because of his hard work. He and his family are in my thoughts as they move into the next chapter of his life.

HONORING NORTHERN STATE  
UNIVERSITY COACH DON MEYER

**HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2009*

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, recently, Don Meyer, head men's basketball coach at Northern State University in Aberdeen, from my State of South Dakota, coached his 903rd career victory. This accomplishment sets the national record for wins by a men's collegiate basketball coach.

Mr. Meyer started his coaching career in 1972 at Hamline University in Minnesota, turning an unsuccessful program into a championship contender. Moving to Lipscomb University in Tennessee, Mr. Meyer created a national powerhouse during his 24 years there—winning an NAIA national title in 1986 and averaging more than 32 wins per season over his final 10 years at the school.

Coming to Northern State in 1999, Mr. Meyer built another highly-successful program. His teams have won over 20 games each of the past 7 seasons, and reached the postseason 4 of the past 5 years.

Over this long career, Mr. Meyer has become nationally known as a teacher of both young men and other coaches. Thousands of coaches from all over the Nation have honed their craft at the Don Meyer Coaches Academy. His instructional books and DVDs have been used by college programs such as Duke and NBA teams such as the Utah Jazz. Of Mr. Meyer, Pat Summitt, the legendary University of Tennessee women's basketball coach, recently told Sports Illustrated, "(Meyer) is one of the most respected clinicians in the country. You can't sit there and not learn and be inspired."

Another inspiration that Mr. Meyer provides stems from the journey he finds himself on today. On September 5, 2008, while leading his team to a preseason retreat, Mr. Meyer was involved in a life-threatening auto accident. At the accident site, his players' quick thinking and poise saved Mr. Meyer's life. Team captain Kyle Schwan told Sports Illus-

trated about the accident, "It's a testament to Coach. In essence, he saved his own life because of the way he taught us."

His recovery has included eight surgeries, the amputation of part of his left leg, and intense pain. Adding to the medical challenge was the discovery of liver and intestine cancer during his emergency surgeries. But through it all, Mr. Meyer has maintained his drive and character, coaching games from the sidelines in a wheelchair. This season, he again has Northern State in championship contention, and remains a sought-after motivational speaker on basketball, coaching, and life itself.

Madam Speaker, it is with enduring pride and respect that I rise today in recognition of Don Meyer and his record-breaking achievement. This achievement is not only measured in the many victories achieved, but in the lives touched. Don Meyer has proven himself worthy to be counted among the best coaches our Nation has produced.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF  
LANCE CORPORAL JESSIE  
CASSADA OF HENDERSONVILLE,  
NORTH CAROLINA

**HON. HEATH SHULER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2009*

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the memory of LCpl Jessie Adam Cassada of Hendersonville, NC. Cassada, only 19 years of age, was killed in combat during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan on the sixth of January, 2009. Lance Corporal Cassada gave the ultimate sacrifice to protect our country. He demonstrated patriotism and true courage beyond his years.

Since childhood, Jessie Cassada wanted to follow the example set by his stepfather and stepbrother to become a Marine. He joined the United States Marine Corps after graduating from East Henderson High School in 2007. He was deployed to Afghanistan from Camp Lejune for a 6- to 7-month tour of duty in November 2008 with the 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division. Official accounts said he was supporting combat operations in the Helmand province prior to his death.

Cassada's awards include the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

He leaves behind his mother, Patricia Cassada, and stepfather, Carroll London, as well as two sisters. I offer my sincere condolences to them and the rest of his family and friends. They are in my thoughts and prayers.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing remorse at to the passing of LCpl Jessie Cassada, as well as never-ending gratitude for the servicemen and women who sacrifice so much to protect our Nation and ensure our freedom. The short life of LCpl Jessie Cassada serves as an inspiration for us all of true patriotism, dedication and courage.

HONORING MARY ANN RIOJAS

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2009*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague from California Mr. NUNES to commend and congratulate Mary Ann Riojas upon being honored by ABC's reality show "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition." Ms. Riojas and family were surprised by Ty Pennington and crew on January 8, 2009 at their home in central Fresno located on East Robinson, Fresno, CA, at the heart of the Central Valley.

Ms. Riojas was born without legs and only one fully developed arm. As a child, Mary Ann was placed in foster care and grew up in an unstable household and poverty. Even though Mary Ann was no stranger to adversity her challenges continued after expanding her family with four children. In financial distress she turned to public assistance to keep her family afloat.

Regardless of Mary Ann's disabilities and financial struggles she continued to live life to the fullest. Her vibrant determination led her to become the first in her family to earn a college degree when she graduated in 2002 from San Joaquin Valley College with an associate degree in Business Administration. She also obtained a drivers license in 2002 which gave her the ability to drive a special hand-controlled vehicle.

Determined to excel, Mary Ann not only became an employee of Easter Seals but also served as a State and national Ambassador. She has traveled all over the country with the Easter Seals program, spreading her joy and enthusiasm for life. Mary Ann eventually switched jobs and decided to help others in her community and that is when she began working for the Fresno Housing Authority as a counselor to other families who are struggling with life's adversities.

Mary Ann does not see herself as a person with disabilities. Mary Ann is a strong woman who has raise four children Nichole 18, Victoria 17, Angel 15, and Jessie 14, and she continues to inspire others on a daily basis. The Extreme Makeover: Home Edition will forever change her life and make her home a better and more user friendly place for her to enjoy with her children.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mary Ann Riojas. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Ms. Riojas and her family many years of continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2009*

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am writing to notify that I was absent for votes on January 9, 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Rollcall Vote No. 7: On Motion to Recommit with Instructions the Paycheck Fairness Act—"yea."

Rollcall Vote No. 8: On Passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act—"nay."